

again, the Republicans are taking care of the richest while imposing tax hikes on hardworking Americans.

As this chart shows, the ACA has caused dramatic reductions in every age group across the entire marketplace in terms of uninsurance, a 50 percent reduction in uninsured in America.

So what does this mean to the average American? For my constituent, Penny Floor, it could return her to a time when she lived with no health insurance whatsoever.

Here is a picture of Penny. She works for the San Mateo Community College District and is one of the 27 percent of Americans under the age of 65 who have a preexisting condition. She is now at risk, thanks to the GOP's reckless ideological agenda, to lose her health insurance.

This is Penny's story in her words:

I tried to buy health insurance in my thirties and in my forties, and both times I was turned down and was told I was ineligible. Basically, I didn't lie on the portion of the form that asked if I had ever been hospitalized for mental illness. I said I was treated for depression when I was 17, and for that I was denied the ability to purchase health insurance.

For a long period of my adult life, I had no health insurance. I worked for a nonprofit childcare center and had no coverage. I got married in my forties, and both my husband and I went to graduate school and were covered then. But when we received our degrees, the coverage ended. My husband was working as a freelance computer programmer. He ended up taking a corporate job that wasn't his dream job so we could be insured.

He is still there today. He is 62, and I am 60, and we live in fear he will be laid off. I am holding my breath that there will be some coverage through Medicaid if that happens, or if we make it to retirement.

When I was younger, I was lucky enough to have incredible health. I didn't go to the doctor or the dentist for 10 years. I was constantly terrified that I would be in a car accident and would be sued. And I was afraid my family would be bankrupt trying to take care of me.

Thank God for Planned Parenthood and access to birth control. It is the only medical attention I received during that time because their sliding pay scale was the only thing I could afford.

Now I am 60, though, and I do have health issues. I was hospitalized earlier this year for blood clots in my legs and lungs. It was scary and expensive, but we had good coverage.

But if the ACA is repealed and Medicaid is affected, I don't know what we will do. We are educated, not poor, very productive members of society, and we are scared.

These are the words of a real American, my constituent, Penny Floor.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, this year, Texas has the great honor of hosting the Super Bowl. In just a couple of weeks, Houston will host the largest event of the year in the United States with approximately 100,000 people expected to attend and more than

100 million expected to tune in on television.

The Department of Homeland Security calls the Super Bowl the most attractive target for those who want to commit harm. Thanks to partnerships between local, state, and Federal officials, K9s will be deployed for bomb detections, officers on the lookout for suspicious activity, and air security will be ramped up, to name just a few of the precautions.

Law enforcement is doing a great job of reminding everyone who plans to attend: if you see something, say something. Since it is January and it is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I want to remind everyone that "see something, say something" doesn't just apply to unattended backpacks.

During a recent meeting on Capitol Hill, DHS reminded all of us that events such as the Super Bowl bring the good, the bad, and the ugly. While a majority of the attendees are coming to have a good time and with good intentions, the few who do not can disrupt and ruin many lives.

So I ask those who attend to help us in keeping Texas one of the safest and best States in the country by reporting anything to law enforcement they may believe to be suspicious and allow trained officers to investigate. This includes suspected human trafficking.

According to the Polaris Project, warning signs of someone being a victim of human trafficking include not being allowed to leave or come and go as they wish; appearing malnourished; not being in control of his or her own identification documents; not being allowed to speak for themselves; and showing signs of physical abuse, torture, or physical restraint.

While law enforcement will be ramping up efforts to reach out to victims and give them the resources they need to get help, it lies on each and every one of us to be aware of our surroundings and help when someone is in trouble or something is not right.

It is important to remember that human trafficking doesn't just happen during large sporting events. It happens every day, often going unseen. While events like the Super Bowl help bring it to our attention, it is important to remember that, when the event is over, men and women, boys and girls are still being victimized each and every day.

UNICEF has estimated there were 1.5 million victims of human trafficking in the United States alone in 2014, and that number soars to 27 million worldwide. This is a problem that is going to continue to need our attention 365 days a year. We have got to work together to end this form of human slavery.

#### OBAMACARE REPEAL AND REPLACE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I spend most of my time, when Congress is not in session, back home in Texas. I hear over and over again from constituents: ObamaCare is not working for me. Premiums are too expensive and deductibles are too high.

That is just not a problem in Texas. ObamaCare is failing nationwide. It is now the unaffordable, no-care act. That is why I support repealing and replacing it. The House will set up the framework to do just that with the budget bill we expect to pass this week. It sets up budget reconciliation that will be the vessel for beginning to fix this failing law.

I am looking forward to a healthcare system that allows individual consumers more choice in the plan that they pick, a healthcare system that will return choice to the American consumer while ensuring that people can't be turned away or lose coverage due to age, medical condition, or circumstances.

I also look forward to a healthcare system that protects Medicare for senior citizens while ensuring Medicare is financially solvent and will be there for future generations.

I also look forward to a healthcare system that is free of burdensome bureaucracy and a tax system that hampers the development of new medical devices and therapies, discourages savings, and penalizes employers and the American people if they don't do Uncle Sam's bidding.

I have heard from restauranteurs in my area. In Port Aransas, I ran into a guy at the airport. He said: I want to expand my restaurant, but it will put me over the limit for employees and put me under ObamaCare. I just can't afford it.

So he chose not to expand. He wasn't able to hire more people, give people jobs.

Another restaurateur in Corpus Christi said: You know, I am over the limit now, but I am only hiring part-time people. I can't afford the coverage, and I can't afford to raise prices because the market just won't bear more expensive meals.

This means that people who could have gotten full benefits under a different plan are having to suffer with no benefits and work two part-time jobs rather than a full-time job.

It is time we repeal and replace ObamaCare and replace it with a healthcare plan that meets people's needs, not Washington, D.C.'s needs. You can read more about the House plan at Better.GOP.

#### FLOODING AND WATER STORAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the water conditions facing California as I have for many times over the last 6 years.

Today, obviously, we have recent storms that we welcome in California. Over the past several days, my district has received above-average rainfall and snow in the mountains; and we welcome that. But also that presents flood conditions.

After over 5 years of record-breaking drought conditions, of course, we welcome the rain and snow; but there is

also destructive flooding that is occurring as a result of that.

Regrettably, to reduce this potential flooding, we are having to let this water go out to the ocean. This precious water could be extremely beneficial to farmers, farmworkers, and farm communities in the dry years. But, of course, we can't store it because the storage is not there.

This water could be used to replenish groundwater aquifers that were depleted during these drought conditions and could be carried over for ground storage for use in dry years. This water could help ensure that farming communities would not continue to deal with double-digit unemployment levels that we have had to face over the last 6 years.

It is why we need to invest more in the water storage projects in California, both surface storage and groundwater recharge, like raising the gates at Exchequer Dam, building Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat Dam.

The WIIN Act that we passed last month was enacted in December, and it provides funding for water storage authorization and for groundwater banking projects. And just in the last several weeks, we have determined that over 130,000 acre-feet of water is available today for use in our farm communities that otherwise would not be available.

It is my sincere hope that those projects and others like this, like the Los Banos Creek Reservoir and raising San Luis Reservoir, are advanced as rapidly as possible in the next administration so that we can begin to capture the much-needed water that comes from these storms as we have had in the last 10 days.

Fixing California's broken water system requires a multiprong approach, as I have said many times on this floor, and focusing on how we improve the water infrastructure and storage capacity will be imperative as we work together to update California's water system, both here in Congress with the new administration and with the administration in Sacramento that is also trying to create a water system that serves California's needs in the 21st century.

After 5 years of devastating drought conditions, we are now witnessing these large storm events which have created floods in certain regions of California. It is either feast or famine in California; and with the climate change impacts, we know that will only continue in the future.

So as we reflect on the last 5 years and we look at the progress we made last month with the WIIN Act that was part of WRDA legislation, as time goes on, it is important that in the future, during the dry years that we will face more intensive drought conditions, that we plan and provide for those drought conditions by creating the necessary surface storage and groundwater storage projects so that when we have wet years—we have wet times, as we

witnessed in the last 10 days, when we see greater rainfall amounts, increased flooding, and snow pack—that we have the water storage capabilities to meet the captured water during the wet years so we can use it during the dry ones. Common sense tells us that.

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I urge my colleagues in Congress and the people of California to continue to work together on a bipartisan basis because it is the only way we ever get anything done. So for the new administration, for my colleagues in the new Congress, and for my friends back in California, we must work together. If California, one of the most prosperous States in the Nation, the seventh or eighth largest economic power in the world, cannot fix the water challenges that we face in the 21st century, God help the rest of the world.

This is all about sustainability—sustainability of our food supply, sustainability of our Nation. Food is a national security item. We don't look at it that way, but it truly is.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the new Congress and the new administration to build on the progress we made last month so that we can fix California's broken water system by using all of the water tools in our water toolbox, and we can only do that on a bipartisan basis.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF MARIJUANA LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Senator JEFF SESSIONS, President-elect Trump's nominee for Attorney General. Senator SESSIONS, I am praising him today for his inspiring testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday. During his confirmation hearings, Senator SESSIONS was questioned on a wide variety of issues that will be under his purview as our Attorney General. Included in the numerous topics covered were questions about his intentions to enforce Federal law as it pertains to marijuana policy.

Senator SESSIONS is a patriot. He is a constitutionalist. He is a man of the highest moral integrity, and I have complete confidence that if confirmed as Attorney General, he will faithfully enforce our laws—not just those he agrees with, but all the laws duly enacted by Congress.

As it pertains to marijuana policy, Senator SESSIONS promised to do the same, to follow the law. During his exchanges on that topic of medical marijuana policy, being questioned by both Senators Leahy and Lee, Senator SESSIONS stated his intention to follow Federal law. At one point he indicated that if Congress no longer desired to make possession and distribution of marijuana an illegal act, "Congress should pass a law to change the rules."

At this time, I feel compelled to point out that Federal law has been changed and currently prohibits the Department of Justice from spending appropriated funds to prosecute individuals who are acting in compliance with their State's medical marijuana laws. In fact, a provision has been in the law since December 2014, when Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Further Continuing Appropriations Act. The act included a provision passed on the floor of the House as an amendment earlier that year by a vote of 219-189. The following year, a similar provision was passed by a wider margin of 242-186. That provision, offered by myself and cosponsored by my colleague, SAM FARR, restricts the Federal Government from superseding State law when it comes to the use of medical marijuana. This law will remain in effect through April 28 of this year, although I expect with the House and the Senate, both on record on this, that this provision will be renewed. I am especially confident of that when realizing that President-elect Trump is on the record, as he stated in the last campaign, that this issue should be left to the States. Thus, I am confident that this legal provision, which says that the Federal Government shall not supersede State law when it comes to medical marijuana, will be renewed.

Importantly, in August of last year, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *U.S. v. McIntosh* that Federal funds cannot be used to prosecute those in compliance with their State's medical marijuana laws. This provision will be part of American law as long as it is renewed and Congress makes it part of the law. I am confident that if Congress does that, Attorney General JEFF SESSIONS, my friend, a person I admire greatly, will abide by the provisions and, thus, respect State medical marijuana laws, as dictated by Congress and enforced by the judiciary.

As he rightfully pointed out in his testimony yesterday, Senator SESSIONS said it will be his duty to see to it that the laws under his purview as Attorney General are faithfully executed, and this includes the Rohrabacher-Farr limitations that no funding shall be used to prosecute those throughout our country who are in compliance with our States' medical marijuana laws.

All of this comes down to a constitutional theory and a constitutional commitment to what we call the 10th Amendment, and that is the States have a right to make determinations in all of those areas that the Federal Government should not be involved in. This should definitely be left to the States.

#### CONGRATULATING CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.